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PP RUEHCHI RUEHDT RUEHHM RUEHNH RUEHTRO  
DE RUEHGO #0413/01 1480644  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
P 270644Z MAY 08  
FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7659  
INFO RUCNASE/ASEAN MEMBER COLLECTIVE  
RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE  
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA 1223  
RUEHNE/AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI 4767  
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 8311  
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 5873  
RHHMUNA/CDR USPACOM HONOLULU HI  
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 3755  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1666  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC  
RUEHBS/USEU BRUSSELS  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 RANGOON 000413

SENSITIVE  
SIPDIS

STATE FOR USAID/OFDA, EAP/MLS, S/ES-O-CMS, DS/CC AND  
DS/IP/EAP; PACOM FOR LTC JAMIE MCADEN; BANGKOK FOR RSO

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [EAID](#) [BM](#)

SUBJECT: BURMA: CYCLONE NARGIS SITREP NO. 15

REF: RANGOON 411 AND PREVIOUS

SUMMARY

1. (SBU) EMBASSY OPERATIONS: Embassy Rangoon operated on city power and had full diesel fuel tanks. Most Embassy residences have returned to city power. No criminal incidents involving American staff were reported.

2. (SBU) U.S. RELIEF FLIGHTS: Over the three-day weekend, five C-130 flights carrying relief supplies arrived each day. A total of 9 of the flights were consigned to NGOs. Five C-130 flights were cleared and scheduled to arrive in Rangoon on May 27. Three of them have been consigned to NGOs. We have received clearance for five more flights tomorrow, May 28, including two consignment shipments. Clearances for an additional five flights on May 29 are pending.

3. (SBU) SITUATION ON THE GROUND: DAS Scot Marciel headed the U.S. delegation at the May 25 UN/ASEAN donors' conference in Rangoon (septel). UNSYG called on the GOB to be open in the disaster relief process. The message from the international community was almost unanimous: the GOB must give unhindered access to international relief experts and additional assistance requires comprehensive needs assessments.

EMBASSY OPERATIONS

4. (SBU) STAFFING AND OPERATIONS: Embassy Rangoon operated on its normal 0800-1630 schedule subject to a liberal leave policy. Other than those on regularly scheduled leave, a full complement of local employees reported for work.

5. (SBU) CONSULAR: Consular has continued regular services since May 21 and received no new welfare and whereabouts cases.

6. (SBU) AUTHORIZED DEPARTURE: Two EFMs departed post on May 24 to join the 11 already in Bangkok.

7. (SBU) FUEL AND POWER: The Embassy operated on city power and had full diesel storage tanks. Most residences are

operating on city power as well.

¶18. (SBU) WATER: The Embassy continued to have adequate water supplies and purification capacity on hand.

¶19. (SBU) SECURITY: No criminal incidents involving American staff were reported.

#### U.S. RELIEF FLIGHTS

¶10. (SBU) Over the three-day weekend, five C-130 flights arrived each day carrying relief supplies. On May 24 and 25 four flights were consigned to NGOs. On May 26, all five flights were consigned to NGOs. Five C-130 flights were cleared and scheduled to arrive in Rangoon on May 27. Three of them carry consignment shipments for NGOs. We have received clearance for five flights on May 28, including three consignment flights. Clearances for five flights on May 29 are still pending.

#### SITUATION ON THE GROUND

¶11. (SBU) CONDITIONS, CASUALTIES AND DAMAGE: DAS Scot Marciel headed the U.S. delegation to the May 25 UN/ASEAN donors' conference. The GOB promised to allow international humanitarian workers to visit the cyclone-devastated region. UNSYG Ban Ki Moon called on the GOB to be more open in the relief process. 51 countries were represented at the conference and all echoed his calls. Despite the GOB's

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request for over \$10 billion in relief aid, the only notable new donations were from China for \$10 million and India for \$1.5 million. Other countries said that they would provide more aid after the UN is able to conduct needs assessments and when the GOB allows aid workers to conduct their activities more freely.

¶12. (SBU) RECOVERY AND RELIEF: One consortium of NGOs reported that it received photos over the weekend of USAID boxes being distributed in remote areas of the delta. Efforts to monitor distribution of relief supplies should improve if the international relief workers obtain greater access to the delta.

¶13. (SBU) FUEL: Fuel prices in Rangoon nearly returned to pre-cyclone levels.

¶14. (SBU) FOOD AND WATER: Food prices in Rangoon continued to drop, but most were still higher than before the cyclone. Shortages in the delta continued.

¶15. (SBU) ELECTRICITY: The GOB continued to restore power to select parts of Rangoon.

¶16. (SBU) LAW AND ORDER: We received no reports of looting or public disturbances in or around Rangoon.

VILLAROSA